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From the Editors

Each year, approximately six hundred future leaders depart operational tours to attend the United States Naval War College. Throughout the academic year, students are challenged on a vast array of topics ranging from the strategic lessons of the Peloponnesian War, proper operational planning in today's joint and coalition force environments, and how the United States military interacts with the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. Government. Students from each branch of the U.S. armed services, civilian federal agencies, and international naval forces interact every day to discuss and learn from each other, and also to challenge each other's thoughts and ideas. Additionally, for those unable to physically attend in Newport, Rhode Island, the College of Distance Education enables them to participate in seminars at their current locations. All students come away from these interactions with a renewed perspective on current and historical issues while building enduring personal relationships across the joint force, interagency, and international spectrum.

As part of this rich educational experience, students provide critical analysis of key national security and military issues impacting events at the operational and strategic levels of war through papers and essays designed to meld rigorous academic requirements with real-world operational experiences. Each year, the best student writing is recognized by various associations and organizations affiliated with the U.S. Naval War College through the annual essay competition.

With this special issue, the editors of /luce.nt/ would like to highlight and congratulate some of the winners of the 2013 – 2014 NWC essay competition. We encourage all students to continue refining their thoughts in anticipation of the 2014 – 2015 essay competition.

- **ADM Richard G. Colbert Memorial Prize**
Major Christopher J. Kirk, United States Army
"The Demise of Decision Making: How Information Superiority Degrades our Ability to Make Decisions"
- **B Franklin Reinauer II Defense Economics Prize**
Lieutenant Colonel William R. Glaser, United States Army
"U.S. Rare Earths Policy: Digging Out of the Rare Earths Quandary"
- **George C. Kenney Award**
Major Marty T. Smith, United States Air Force
"Airpower in Hybrid War: Ethical Implications for the Joint Force Commander"



- **Jerome E. Levy Economic Geography and World Order Prize**
Lieutenant Colonel Kevin H Hutchison, United States Marine Corp
“Oft-Forgotten Mexico: The United States’ Indispensable Strategic Partner”
- **Naval War College Foundation Award (two awards)**
Lieutenant Commander Tom Clarity, United States Navy
“Does the Tail Wag the Dog? Mission Command, Technology, and C2 in the U.S. Navy”

Colonel Robert M. Klein, United States Army
“The Underappreciated Strategic Genius of George B. McClellan”
- **Robert E. Batemans International Prize (two awards)**
Lieutenant Colonel Alex Eduardo Ramirez Ramos, Colombian Navy
“Balancing Interests in the SCS”

Commander Lee Taegseon, Republic of Korea, Navy
“U.S.-Vietnam Military Relations in 2013 and Beyond: The Impact and Solutions for Maintaining a Good U.S.-PRC Relationship”
- **The LT Michael P. Murphy Counterterrorism Prize**
Lieutenant Colonel Michael E. Conley, United States Air Force
“Intervention through Counterterrorism: The Challenges of the Trans-Sahara”
- **The Interagency Partnership Prize**
Hermann G. Hasken III, United States Department of Defense
“Beyond Find, Fix, Finish: Establishing a Counter-Network Interagency Organization to Combat the Convergence of Globally Connected Threat Networks”
- **VADM James H. Doyle, Jr., Military Operations and International Law Prize**
Colonel Katherine Graef, United States Army
“The European Court of Human Rights: Implications for United States National Security”
- **Zimmerman-Gray NSC International Prize (two awards)**
Lieutenant Commander Ilkay Arslanoglu, Turkish Naval Forces
“A Worse Case Scenario: Guerilla Type War in the Littorals”